

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 EB-11 CPR-02

FEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SCI-06

SPC-03 /097 W

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P 211604Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3240

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND ARIKPO

REF: LAGOS 1777

SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT MEETING BE ARRANGED BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO WHEN LATTER VISITS NEW YORK FOR APRIL 9 OPENING OF UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. END SUMMARY

1. PROJECTED ARIKPO VISIT TO NEW YORK APRIL 9  
(REFTEL) OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOSTER SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO CREATE IN OUR BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH NIGERIA.
2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, NIGERIANS ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL ROLE AS LARGEST AND WEALTHIEST NATION IN BLACK AFRICA, AND ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT OTHERS DO NOT REGARD THEM IN SAME LIGHT. THIS FEELING ON THEIR PART HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY PROSPECT OF SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL OIL REVENUES AND BY FACT THAT GENERAL GOWON IS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF OAU.
3. AT SAME TIME, FMG REMAINS AWARE OF CONTINUING IMPORTANCE TO NIGERIA OF POLICIES AND ATTITUDES OF MAJOR POWERS OUT-  
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SIDE AFRICA, NOTABLY US. THIS HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN CONVERSA-

TIONS BETWEEN COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADEDEJI AND UNDER SECRETARY CASEY AND BETWEEN NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR GARBA AND SERIES OF SENIOR USG OFFICIALS. MEETING BETWEEN ARIKPO AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD PROVIDE LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON TO THIS SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS, AND WOULD OFFER OCCASION TO GIVE FMG CLARIFICATION AND ASSURANCES ABOUT ASPECTS OF US POLICY WHICH IT HAS SOUGHT IN THESE EARLIER EXCHANGES. MEETING AT THIS LEVEL WOULD ALSO SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE TO NIGERIANS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND CONTINUE SERIES OF MINISTERIAL EXCHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED ON LAST SEVERAL ARIKPO VISITS TO UN.

4. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SUBSTANCE FOR DISCUSSION AT MEETING WE SUGGEST. NIGERIANS HAVE DISPLAYED SOME ANXIETY ABOUT US APPROACH TO ENERGY PROBLEMS. THEY ARE NOT SURE WHAT RESULTS US EXPECTS WILL FLOW FROM CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS, OR HOW THEIR INTERESTS WILL BE AFFECTED EITHER BY THIS PROCESS OR BY DECLARED USG AIM OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCY BY END OF DECADE. FMG IS ALSO PROFOUNDLY TROUBLED BY BROADER ISSUES AFFECTING LDCS VIS-A-VIS DEVELOPED WORLD WHICH WILL BE ON AGENDA FOR SPECIAL UNGA. ON POLITICAL SIDE, NIGERIANS ARE WATCHING TO SEE WHAT WILL EMERGE FROM USG-GOP NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF AZORES BASE AGREEMENT. ON ALL THESE POINTS, ARIKPO WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY OBTAIN DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF US VIEWS DIRECTLY FROM SECRETARY AND TO PRESENT NIGERIAN VIEWPOINT FOR CONSIDERATION IN US DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. SUBJECT OF GOWON STATE VISIT TO US MIGHT ALSO COME UP, ALTHOUGH THERE SEEMS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS MATERIALIZING IN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

5. IN LIGHT ABOVE, STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT MEETING WITH ARIKPO BE INCLUDED ON SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE FOR UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. IN VIEW OF OUR INTERESTS HERE, BELIEVE NIGERIA MUST TAKE PRIDE OF PLACE AMONG AF STATES IN JUDGING COMPETING REQUESTS ON THIS MATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, NI, US, UNGA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (ARIKPO, OKIO)  
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